



# TOWN OF MONROE

## REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE

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**February 21, 2022**

Dear Government Administration and Elections Committee,

Having read all three bills regarding early voting, H.B. No. 5004, S.B. 1057 and S.B. 1064, the Registrars of Voters for the Town of Monroe have three main areas of concern we would like to comment on from an operational standpoint: technology, funding and the inclusion of referenda.

Technology is the first area of concern. We feel that the state-wide Central Voter Registration System (CVRS) is currently not set up to run early voting as prescribed in these bills. The bills reference checking CVRS to determine eligibility to vote, but our current system does not include real-time tracking of "Who Voted" other than for Absentee Ballots. For election day, we currently use hard copies of the Official Voter List and manually update "Who Voted" within 60 days after the election. These bills would need to include updated technology to implement as prescribed. We are told by the Secretary of State's Office that CVRS will be updated but not until 2024 at the earliest, which would not be in time to implement early voting in the Fall of 2023. Because of the aging tabulators and their failure to perform, we are currently short on the number needed for tabulating the additional early voting ballots as well.

Regarding funding, all three bills would require significant additional funding needed to implement early voting. In addition to the costs of new technology and equipment mentioned above, funding would be required for the following areas: extra staffing for expanded early voting hours; extra ballots as we will need to order at least 2 additional ballot styles for early voting/same day voting; early voting envelopes; police security for early voting location and ballot transfer to Town Clerk's vault; additional custodial costs for expanded early voting hours; signage and mailing to advertise early voting; early voting ballot depository receptacle and storage for early voting ballots before counting on Election Day. It should be noted that primaries will require twice the funding and personnel as a general election.

Early voting for Referenda is included in bills H.B. 5004 and S.B. 1064. In Monroe, our charter only requires 5 days notification of our annual budget referendum and 2 weeks between each subsequent vote, should the first one not pass. This timeline would not allow us to run early voting as prescribed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns regarding the three proposed bills for early voting. We are available to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Briggs, Democratic Registrar of Voters  
Margaret Villani, Republican Registrar of Voters